GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1378
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2000
CARDAMOM GROWERS
C. SREENIVAASAN

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that cardamom growers/exporters of our country have been adversely affected due to stiff competition by Guatemala produced cardamom, which is cheaply produced using advanced farm techniques; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to give competitive edge to native cardamom growers and exporters?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)
a) Yes, Sir. Government does not have authentic confirmation on use of advance farm techniques by Guatemala.
b) A number of measures have been taken to impart competitive edge to cardamom growers and exporters. At grower`s level, Spices Board has implemented a number of programmes to increase the productivity of cardamom thereby reducing the cost of production. The steps taken by the Spices Board in this regard include production and supply of quality planting material, re-planting/rejuvenation of old, un-economic, senile and diseased plantations, irrigation and land development programme and extension and advisory services.
Spices Board has been implementing the following programmes for the benefit of exporters:
i) Popularising the use of cardamom through media campaigns, panel displays, brochures at fairs and exhibitions.
ii) Assistance for sales promotion tour abroad.
iii) Assistance for packaging development.
iv) Assistance for printing of brochures/folders.
v) Reimbursement of cost of export pack.
vi) Reimbursement of air freight/courier charges for sending samples abroad.
vii) Organising cardamom exporters delegation to importing countries.